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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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Melanie Francis / Master of Architecture, 1980

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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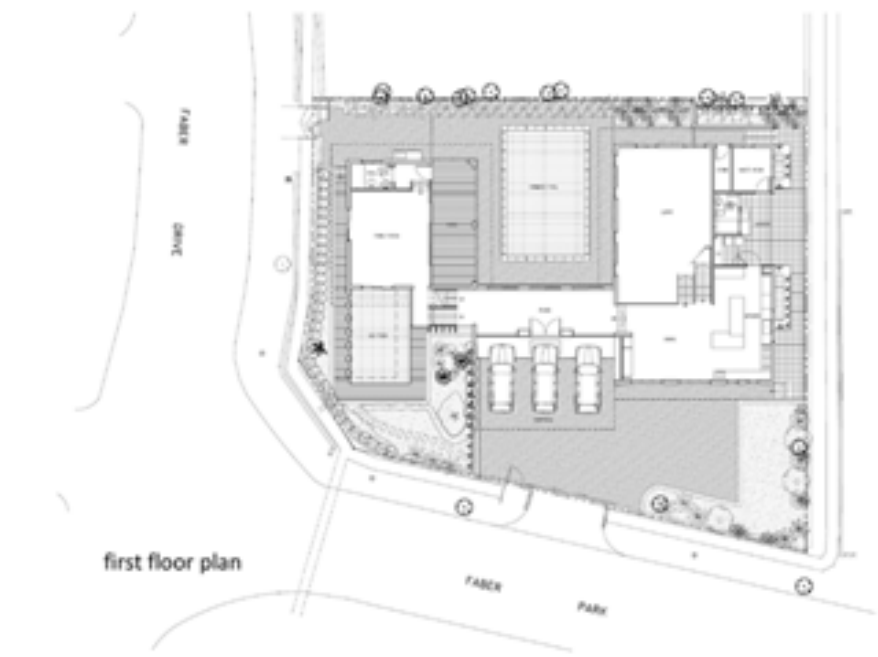
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FABER PARK HOUSE, SINGAPORE

Melanie Francis, MSIA, Principal-in-charge
Tow Francis Architecture + Urban Design

completed 2012

Working with the existing grades on the sloping corner site, the house is conceived as two pavilions linked by a glazed bridge, forming a courtyard with a swimming pool in the middle. This reduces the apparent mass of the 7,000SF area and allows for separation of the master and children’s bedrooms. Entrance is through the car porch into a glazed entrance foyer overlooking the pool. A koi pond at the corner of the front garden serves as a visual landmark for both persons entering at the gate and for those inside on the stair landing. Tiled hipped roofs with large overhangs allude to traditional dwellings in Southeast Asia, while the language and detailing are clean-lined and modern. In response to the hot tropical climate, timber fins and screens filter light and provide shade, while operable windows and ceiling fans facilitate natural ventilation. Granite, timber and clay tile characterize the warm palette set against lush vegetation.



Alumnae Biography

BIOGRAPHY

After spending the first decade of my career in Boston, I moved to Singapore in 1990 to work at Tsao & McKown on Suntec City. Currently, I teach architecture part-time at the National University of Singapore and run a small practice which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. In design, we strive for clarity of intention

and craftsmanship in execution. We believe that architecture must be rooted in its time and place to have meaning. We acknowledge the relevance of technology to our work, but believe that spaces which evoke delight and wonder cannot be reduced entirely to formula; rather, they evolve from fleeting moments of inspiration patiently nurtured to fruition.

AWARDS

Merit Award, IDC /Nippon Paint “Colour My World” Design Excellence Award, 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Trends magazine, vol 30 no 1
Trends magazine, vol 18 no 7
Trends magazine, vol 17 no 11
Space magazine, 2000
The Business Times newspaper, 1997
Interiors Quarterly magazine, 1994